STATISTICAL BUREAU

TURNING ON THE SEARCHLIGHT

THE WEST INDIES

CONFRONT

CHRISTIAN AMERICA

REVELATIONS FROM WASHINGTON, D. C.

WORLD CITIZENSHIP SERIES
ROOM 904
437 FIFTH AVENUE, NEW YORK CITY

"TREASURE ISLAND" and kindred books, as well as stories of the tyranny of European exploiters, together with the highly sensational press reports of endless revolutions in certain islands, have created in the minds of the American public an altogether false impression of the West Indies.

In place of the blood-thirsty pirates portrayed in the story books, there are dwelling in the very houses which tradition peopled with the buccaneers of the Spanish main a peace-loving, simple-minded people whose ancestors were reading the classics and engaging in trade with Europe on terms of equality when the rest of America was still a howling wilderness. Even in those islands where public opinion has pictured bandits lurking behind every palm, and a revolution staged to awaken the tourist each morning, the excitable and ambitious people no longer carry as side arms a cutlass and a brace of dueling pistols.

FOR generations there has been an increasing tide of emigration from the West Indies to the States, but world events have given a new phase to this situation. The rising race consciousness of small nations has caused these people to question whether America has really much to offer that is superior to their own civilization, which boasted great and beautiful cities and a famous university at a period when the rest of the American continent was inhabited by savages. While a reluctant statement may be secured from them that moral standards and sanitation may not be what they should be, it is hard for these people, who possess the culture and dignity of the old world, to have their religious and physical improvement bear the imprint, "Made in America."

Thus a new element enters into the task which confronts Christian America. Only such churches as are untainted with nationalism will be able to proclaim acceptably the pure Gospel of that Master who recognized no distinctions of race, color or language. A church possessing a membership among all nations and preaching the Gospel in every known tongue would be best prepared to interpret the true spirit of America, a country that has among its inhabitants citizens from every government on the face of the earth, and so approaching most closely the ideal of world citizenship.

IN the reports presented to the epoch-making Convention at Washington, D. C., the great and marvelous opportunities that confront Christian America were revealed. The generous response to the request for a larger support of the various agencies of the church, as well as the clear-cut declaration of principles adopted without a dissenting voice, gave evidence that the Church of the pure Gospel had received the vision of world service and was ready to follow the call.

Since many will have neither time nor opportunity to read the lengthy but inspiring reports that came from every corner of the earth to the delegates at Washington, *the West Indies Mission Board of the United Lutheran Church in America, Inc.,* resolved to publish this brief summary of its report to the Convention.

HOW IT CAME ABOUT. This Board is also the result of a merger, having now in its charge the work of the "Board of Missions for Porto Rico and Latin America" of the General Council and "The Board to Care for the Lutheran Churches in the Virgin Islands" of the same body.

The work in Porto Rico may be said to have begun with the entrance of the victorious American troops during the Spanish-American War, since the first Lutheran services were held at that time. Upon this beginning a substantial foundation has been laid during the past two decades. During the years that this work was under the careful administration of the General Council Board, it is just that we should testify to the great interest and active support of the *Swedish Augustana Synod*, from which body most of the missionaries were recruited. Although Augustana did not enter the United Lutheran Church in the merger, it has generously continued its support of our work and sends representatives to the Board meetings.

The work of the church in the Virgin Islands can be traced back about 270 years to the time of the Danish occupation. Official church records are preserved in Denmark extending over a period of almost two centuries. One of our most beautiful church buildings on the Island of St. Croix has been in continuous use for 170 years, and another for 128 years. This field came under the care of the American Church after the islands were purchased by the United States in 1917, and today $150,000 would not replace the property turned over by the Danish National Church.

PORTO RICO

The field in Porto Rico at present comprises two districts, with centers at San Juan and Bayamon. The growth during the past few years is such that a third district, with an American pastor, has become a necessity. This need has been filled since the Convention, the *Rev. Hans Naether, A.M.*, of the German Iowa Synod, having accepted a call, and as soon as he has mastered the language, will take charge of the third district. In the meantime he is taking care of all our English work in Porto Rico.

SAN JUAN. In charge of this, the oldest district, is the missionary longest on the field, the *Rev. Alfred Ostrom, D.D.* He and his devoted wife have done heroic service for fifteen years. The principal work of this district is centered at *Puerta de Tierra*, where we have an unusually beautiful church and parsonage with all mod-

ern conveniences, valued at $30,000. In this building two congregations worship, with separate and distinct congregational organizations, Sunday Schools and Luther Leagues. One is the First English Congregation, the oldest organization on the field; and the other, St. Paul's Spanish Congregation, organized in 1900. There is attached also to this center a station at *Gondul* with a Sunday School and weekday services. Another center of this district is the old section of the city of *San Juan*, where services have been held in rented quarters ever since our church entered Porto Rico. From this center two out-stations were conducted, *LaPerla and Marina*. The other center is *Catano* and *Palo Seco*. The organized congregation at *Catano* has two out-stations, *San Tomas* and *Sabano*. The organized work

Street scene in old San Juan, where for a quarter century, services have been held in rented rooms.

A patio where the services of an out-station are conducted.

at *Palo Seco* has as its out-stations *Punta Salinas* and *Las Palmas*, the latter of which was abandoned when the landlord razed the village. In his district Dr. Ostrom has been assisted until recently by *Paul E. West* in the English and Spanish-English work, and by *Demetrio Texidor*, the oldest of our native helpers, but who recently resigned and whose place has been taken by *Sergio Cobian*, formerly at Palo Seco. The assistant at Catano and Palo Seco is *Guillermo Marrero*. The parish visitor is *Carmen L. de Hernandez*. *Mrs. Ostrom*, together with *Miss Sofia Probst* and *Miss Emma R. Schmid*, have assisted in the parish work in this district. The statistics for the San Juan district show 386 communicant members in the four organized congregations, and 653 baptized members in the congregations and outlying stations. The nine Sunday Schools have a membership of 770, and there are two Luther Leagues, with a combined membership of 90. The people, out of their poverty, contributed $1,575 toward local expenses. The property of the Board on this field is valued at $40,000.

Missionaries on Porto Rico Field at the time of Commissioners visit

BAYAMON. This district, while numerically smaller than San Juan, covers a far greater expanse of territory, and without an automobile, would be utterly impossible of supervision by one missionary. The *Rev. Fred W. Lindke* has been in charge of this district since coming to the field in 1918. He is enthusiastically supported by *Mrs. Lindke*, who teaches the Kindergarten in Bayamon in the forenoon and the Day School at Sion in the afternoon.

The chief congregation is the *Santissima Trinidad*, at Bayamon. In another section of the same city is the *Sion* Congregation, which has the largest Sunday School in our Porto Rico field and where recently a day school has been established that taxes the capacity of the building. The assistant in these congregations is *Salustiano Hernandez*. The parish visitor is *Romona Sotomayor*. Desiring to improve the deplorable living conditions in this district, the Board is seeking a nurse or Deaconess whose works of mercy will further demonstrate the power of Christian love. The outlying stations of Bayamon—*Pajaros* Sunday School and *Baja Road* Sunday School—have been under the care of native helper *Jose Caban*. At *Monacillo* is the Betania Congregation, *Juan Zambrana*, assistant, with the outlying stations—*Juan Domingo* and *Juan Velez* and *Arriba*. The work at *Toa Baja* was under the charge of *Dionisio Miranda*, who died of pneumonia in March, 1920, during the

A Country Chapel and Sunday School

influenza epidemic. For the time being, this work, together with the outlying station of *Campanilla*, has been attached to the Dorado field. The *Dorado* work, under *German Vazquez*, has the three outlying stations of *Maraeayo*, *Higuillar* and *Santa Rosa*. The statistics for the Bayamon district give 217 communicant members in five organized congregations, and 585 baptized members in the congregations and outlying stations. The thirteen Sunday Schools have a membership of 1,104, and there are two Luther Leagues, with a membership of 75. The people of this district, many of whom are poor country peons, contributed $659 toward current expenses. The property of the Board on this field is valued at $17,000.

With the exception of the English congregation at Puerta de Tierra, the services, preaching and instruction in all districts, are conducted in the Spanish language.

Virgin Islands

The five congregations on the islands of St. Croix, St. Thomas and St. John are organized somewhat as parishes are in America. In place of the paid native helpers of the other fields, the pastors are assisted for the time being by salaried parish clerks, as in the Danish time. It will be difficult to prepare statistical tables until the organizations are entirely uniform with those in America. An additional difficulty in obtaining exact statistics is the constant removal of members to New York City, whose temporary absence often becomes permanent without notification to the parish. Our work in New York City, however, will soon remove this difficulty. The last census gave the Lutherans about 2,900 of the population of the Virgin Islands. All these must necessarily have been baptized and confirmed in our churches, and our pastors are laboring faithfully to locate all whom the census lists as Lutherans.

FREDERIKSTED AND KING'S HILL. In charge of this parish is the *Rev. J. C. Pedersen*, the first missionary to go out under the auspices of our Board. While now an American citizen, Pastor Pedersen was born and educated in Denmark, and has had years of experience in Africa, Australia and North America. In addition to his regular services in the two congregations of the parish, he conducts services in the villages of the estates and regularly at the Poor Farm, and also holds frequent services in Danish. His assistant is *Clerk Reginald MacFarlane*. The beautiful church building in Frederiksted has been in constant use for over a hundred years. It stands majestically on the hillside, a landmark for the vessels entering the harbor. There is a substantial and comfortable building at King's Hill. In addition, the Frederiksted Congregation possesses an excellent Mission or Parish House known as *Bethesda* and an Old People's Home called *Salem*. They have also a grant of three thousand dollars from the Danish National Church for the erection of a parsonage.

CHRISTIANSTED. In this field the *Rev. George W. Critchlow*, ably assisted by his wife, is demonstrating that there is no dead-line in the life of a consecrated missionary. The property of this parish consists of a

Primary Department, Christiansted

magnificent church building and a palatial parsonage, together with the property known as *Pleasant Grove*, where is located an Old People's Home, and an administration building used by parish organizations, in which *Mrs. Critchlow's* large Bible Classes meet during the week. This parish has the largest young people's societies in our West Indies field, one a Luther League and the other a girls' society under Sister Carrie, the total active membership being 110. In addition to the regular services of the church, Pastor Critchlow conducts services regularly at the Leper Colony. The parish assistant is *Clerk Alexander Creagh.*

ST. THOMAS AND ST. JOHN. The work of this parish until Whitsunday, 1920, was most efficiently done by the Rev. P. Kastrup, who was the last of the pastors supported by the Danish Missionary Societies It was truly a Providential guiding that enabled the Board to secure as his successor the *Rev. J. P. Christiansen*, a member of the United Danish Synod in America, who, with his wife and child, arrived in May, 1920, and whose work from the very beginning has been greatly blessed. The church building at Charlotte Amalia is very large and beautifully furnished. Adjoining it is a large Mission House, or what would be known in America as a parish house, called *Bethany.* There is in connection with this an Old People's Home. On the side of the hill overlooking the harbor and next to the Governor's palace is the parsonage, giving a view unequaled by any in America. The Brotherhood in the congregation at St. Thomas is the largest men's organization in our church in the West Indies. *Clerk Amos Benjamin* is the assistant. In connection with this congregation is the work at *St. John*, a small island

Ploughing on St. John's Island

having less than a thousand population, living in a most primitive state without any connection with the life of the world. *Clerk Carl E. Francis* is doing excellent work here, regularly conducting services, the pastor coming over in a small sailboat when possible.

In giving the summary of statistics for the Virgin Island field it is difficult to state the value of property, as most of it was erected at the expense of the Danish Government, but a most conservative valuation has shown that the property rights which the West Indies Mission Board holds in the Virgin Islands could not be secured today for less than $150,000. As nearly as can be calculated, the communicant membership in the five congregations is 1,398, and the baptized membership is 1,985. The Sunday School enrollment is 920, and the contributions of the people for their current expenses and local benevolence, $5,676.

Institutions of Mercy

UNDER the Danish rule our church, being the National Church, had charge to a great extent of the civil charities. In addition, many public-spirited people in Denmark, together with missionary societies, established institutions under the church's control in which the sick and poor, and especially the starving and neglected babies, were cared for. Many of these worthy charities could not be continued by our church, through lack of resources, and also because under the American Government much of the work, especially that of visiting nurses, providing for the poor, caring for the insane, and the training of the incorrigible, are spheres of activity for the civil authorities. The Red Cross nurses, the Poor Farm and similar institutions are at present doing effective work along these lines. Our church, however, has undertaken to continue the work among the neglected babies, the orphans and the aged.

Women Coaling a Ship, St. Thomas

CHILDREN'S HOMES. The *Queen Louise Homes for Sick and Neglected Babies,* supported by the Danish Missionary Societies, with excellent buildings in Christiansted and Frederiksted, were transferred by deed of gift to the Trustees of the General Council on condition that this work of charity be continued without regard to race, creed or language. The value of the properties is stated in the deed to be $9,500, but they could not be replaced today for $30,000. Within the past year, both Homes have been completely renovated at a cost of about $2,000 each.

These Homes have a capacity of about sixty children each. The work is divided into three departments—that of a sick ward; that of a day nursery, where babies are cared for whose mothers are compelled to work; and that of the kindergarten. In the midst of the prevailing poverty and ignorance of the ordinary working people it is unnecessary to state that the Homes are usually filled to their capacity.

Sister Maren Knudsen has consecrated twelve years of self-sacrifieing labor to this work, and is the only one of the Danish Deaconesses to remain. She is in charge of the Home in Frederiksted, and her noble work has won the love and esteem of all.

At Christiansted the first American Deaconess, *Sister Carrie Gick*, of the Baltimore Motherhouse, is in charge. She entered the field in November, 1919, and from the very beginning her efficient administration has met with success. In addition to her institutional work she has assisted largely in the parish, espeeially in the Sunday School, the Luther League and among the young girls.

EBENEZER ORPHANAGE. An Orphanage for Girls is the most blessed of eharities in a land where 70 per cent. of the births are illegitimate. Under the Christian influence of one of their own race. *Deaconess Sister Emma Francis*, these orphan girls are given a chance in life whieh would be utterly impossible without this noble institution founded by the K. M. A. (Women's Missionary Society of Denmark). The property was valued at $5,000, but could not be replaced today for $10,000. It was deeded to the West Indies Mission Board on the payment of a mortgage of $2,000. At the time of this report there were seventeen girls in the Home, and by their faithful co-operation with Sister Emma, have been able to conduct the Home on a very economic basis. By their own labors in baking bread for the hospital, they have been able to provide a fund for needed improvements and from which, also, girls, when leaving the Orphanage, are given a proper outfit with which to enter the world. Under the capable guidance of Miss Schoen, a well-equipped edueator from the States, a plan for vocational training is being worked out by which the orphans will be better fitted for taking their place in the world.

OLD PEOPLE'S HOMES. Three of the congregations in the Virgin Islands have in connection with their Mission Houses a group of cottages for old people. These are rented out for a nominal sum, and in them the occupants may keep house according to their own idea. When necessary, they are provided with food and clothing by the congregation. Since the establishment by the American Government of the Poor Farm, the use of these Homes will be restricted to the poor of our own congregations.

Island of St. Croix "where

EDUCATIONAL

KINDERGARTENS. The sphere of the Christian kindergarten becomes unusually important when primary education is shamefully neglected as in the West Indies. Even in Porto Rico, where the United States has spent millions to raise the educational standard and where Dr. Miller, the untiring Commissioner of Education, has met with remarkable success in improving the public school system, the local law makers have persisted in taking one backward step after another, one of their recent enactments placing the school age at ten years.

This, however, is the church's opportunity, a chance that the Roman Catholic Church rejuvenated by the coming of the Protestants, is not slow to take advantage of and with her hosts of Sisters will soon have parochial schools in every center. Our Church, together with other Protestants, hampered by lack of funds and workers, stands with hands tied, while these little children, whose future could so easily be moulded, run wild amid the immoral environment of the streets. In the Virgin Islands the public schools are sadly inadequate, and outside of the work done in the Lutheran kindergartens practically no effort is being made to care for the smaller children.

The pioneer service of our missionaries in this department has been signally blessed. *Miss Nanca Schoen*, formerly in charge of the kindergarten at Puerta de Tierra, was transferred to the Virgin Islands, where she re-opened the Children's Home at Christiansted and established a large and successful kindergarten, which has since been carried on by the Deaconess and her assistant. Miss Schoen then established headquarters at the Ebenezer Orphanage to develop a course of vocational training for the orphans, but in the meantime she

lleys stand thick with cane."

A Sunday pastime in Porto Rico that does not help the Sunday School

opened a kindergarten in Bethesda, not only for the inmates of our Frederiksted Children's Home, but also for all the children of the parish.

In Porto Rico, *Miss Sofia Probst*, who has just returned from a furlough, during which she took a special course of training, has at present supervision of the kindergartens, of which there are three in operation—the one at Puerta de Tierra, where *Miss Catalina Zambrana*, daughter of one of our native preachers, has been faithfully carrying on the work; the kindergarten at Catano, which during Miss Probst's furlough was suspended; and the kindergarten at Bayamon, where Mrs. Lindke and her native assistant have met with remark-

An outdoor Session at Bethesda, St. Croix

able success. Our kindergartens are so filled to capacity that often the morning and afternoon sessions have entirely different pupils. During the past biennium the average enrollment has been over 300.

DAY SCHOOLS. The Church will miss one of its greatest opportunities if it does not at once establish day schools for the little children that long for the education now denied them. Children may enter the public schools under ten years when there is room, but of the hundreds who apply, those who are best prepared are, naturally, received first. A day school opened by Pastor Lindke in Sion Chapel witnessed a remarkable scene at the opening session, when fathers and mothers,

Can you see why she could not send them to school? They are anxious to start.

quitting work, brought their children that they might plead for the admission of their little ones, crowding the chapel to the very doors. It is hoped that public-spirited men and women of our church will send special gifts direct to the Board for this work, which is outside of our regular activities provided for in the apportionment. Five Dollars will provide sufficient training for a child to stand first chance of entering the public school before ten years of age.

Theological Seminary. The conviction that native helpers were essential for permanent success led missionaries on the field to make several attempts to supply that need. In the Virgin Islands, under the Danish rule, the office of clerk was established, the duties of which, in addition to those customary in the church in Denmark, partook largely of the nature of those of a lay reader in the American church. In Porto Rico the need caused the missionaries to establish a course of seminary instruction, an action that received the approval of the Porto Rico Mission Board, and, through it, of the General Council. This, however, made no provision for the ordination of students. But the men who had been in service for years, possessing better preparation than those ordained by other denominations, demanded ordination. In order to obtain a solution of this problem, the Executive Board of the United Lutheran Church was requested to consider the advisability of giving the mission boards the privilege of establishing the grade of lay readers and also to license them when properly qualified. An exhaustive study of this subject by that board resulted in the establishment of rules and regulations which it is hoped will meet the situation. Authority was also granted by the Executive Board for the appointment of a committee to devise a seminary

curriculum that would provide for our present needs and at the same time maintain the standards prevailing in the United Lutheran Church. Upon this committee were appointed the Rev. Prof. H. E. Jacobs, D.D., LL.D., the Rev. V. G. A. Tressler, D.D., the Rev. D. H. Bauslin, D.D., LL.D., the Rev. E. F. Krauss, D.D., LL.D., and the late Rev. Theodore E. Schmauk, D.D., LL.D., who was succeeded by the Rev. Charles M. Jacobs, D.D. This committee has outlined a preliminary course for a Christian Training School, with the development of the Seminary to follow.

Industrial. Vocational training is a natural outgrowth of the aspirations aroused by the ideals given in the Gospel. A beginning has been made in this work with classes for the training of girls in lace making and basket weaving, by which they are enabled to add to their scanty income and somewhat improve their living

One of the Lace Classes

conditions. This work, less than a year old, shows encouraging promise, due chiefly to the enthusiastic labors of *Miss Emma R. Schmid*, who is in charge of this department. The course of instruction which Miss Schmid developed from her own experience was recently incorporated in the vocational course of the public schools. The work also brought her in touch with other Protestants, and so impressed are some of the leaders with her successful efforts among the laboring class that she has been given charge of the administration of certain funds which outsiders have provided to establish milk stations for the children of the poor.

Calada Fund. This industrial training is an outgrowth of a very large and important work undertaken by *Mrs. Alfred Ostrom* on her own initiative some years ago. Having been asked by friends to send them Porto Rican drawn work and laces, she was led to recognize the great possibilities of assisting the natives by furnishing a market for the product of their labors, and with painstaking management she developed in a few years a business that brought in many hundred dollars which she spent in the support of the mission. This work has been taken over by the Board, and, under Mrs. Ostrom's efficient management, bids fair to become an important factor in the future development of the field.

The Lepers. Many do not realize that this dread disease, so graphically pictured in the Scriptures, is still a terrible reality. In the Island of St. Croix the naval authorities have charge of a colony in which these unfortunates are cared for and where our church, through Pastor Critchlow, has furnished regular services each week. In Porto Rico our missionaries have done their part in conducting services for those who dwell in that

"On the way to Leper Island."

place of horror known to the people as "The Isle of the Living Dead." The expense of the sailboat to reach this island, together with the little gifts which the missionaries always take with them, has prevented more frequent visits on the part of our workers. The printed page cannot convey the agonized cry for help that comes to the church from those who are so shunned by their fellow-men.

Santo Domingo. For several years the missionaries on the Porto Rico field have presented the urgent call from Santo Domingo, where quite a number of our members from the Virgin Islands and Porto Rico have emigrated. Logically, this is the next field for the West Indies Board to enter, as it is close to Porto Rico, uses the same language, and can be supervised from that field. In addition to this nucleus we have also the advantage of the protection of the United States Government, for while Santo Domingo is a republic, its custom houses are under the control of the United States, and the country is practically under military occupation by our naval forces. The Dominican Republic covers about two-thirds of the Island of Santo Domingo, and has an expanse of territory a little larger than Connecticut, Delaware, Massachusetts, New Hampshire and Vermont combined, and is seven times larger than Porto Rico. Its population is about three-quarters of a million.

There is very little Protestant work being done, and the Lutheran Church should be planted here, that it might assist in rescuing from degradation and vice the countless thousands who know not the Gospel. There is every reason why the oldest Protestant Church should be represented in Santo Domingo City, the oldest city in the New World.

"And a little child shall lead them."

Childhood extending the hand of Christian Fellowship.

Harlem, New York City. When the Board's Commissioners visited the West Indies, they were constantly petitioned to do something for the West Indians in New York City. Evidence was produced indicating that of the many hundreds who had gone to New York City within the memory of the present generation, very few had been able to surmount the obstacles of language and race that barred them from the established Lutheran churches of New York. The matter was carefully considered by the Board, which felt that it was obligated by the duties imposed by its Constitution to undertake the care of these people. After notifying the Home Mission Board, the field was investigated, and from the very beginning the work has grown by leaps and bounds.

Although worshiping in a small hall, kindly furnished by the Colored Y. W. C. A., the Sunday School being held at seven o'clock at night and the Church service at eight, nevertheless, in less than a year's time a congregation has been established that numbers 168 communicant members. The average Sunday attendance at Church has reached 150, and the Sunday School over 100. The contributions for the first year were more than $1,200, and the first confirmation class numbered fourteen. This work is under the personal care of the Execu-

tive Secretary, the Rev. Z. M. Corbé, assisted by Mr. Paul E. West, who while preparing for the ministry is taking a special course at Wagner Memorial Lutheran College.

The problem of securing property for this congregation is very great, since it is located in Manhattan, New York City, where real estate is the most expensive in the world, but our Church would be guilty of a grave error if it failed to take advantage of this opportunity to plant the faith in the greatest and wealthiest Negro city in the world. In connection with this congregation there is an opportunity for the largest Inner Mission work among other races that was ever offered the Lutheran Church in civilized countries. No finer memorial could be erected than an equipment for this work, the wonderful influence of which would make the donor's name known far beyond the bounds of the United Lutheran Church.

Survey. The Washington Convention instructed the West Indies Mission Board to make a complete survey of the possibilities for work among the more than fourteen million Negroes in America. Preparations are under way to do this in a most thorough manner, and the results of the survey will be presented to the Church through such channels as may awaken our people to a full realization that at our very doors are immense untouched fields, white unto the harvest.

Help Wanted. Although the Board is in no financial position to call additional workers, the fact remains that there is a great and pressing need for more laborers in the West Indies field. An ordained minister of some pastoral experience and filled with missionary zeal is desired. A Christian physician who is more concerned about helping his fellow-men than securing financial returns is needed for a section of our field where many hundreds die every year without medical attention. Also, a Deaconess with knowledge of nursing and sanitation is most urgently needed at once.

In addition to the living voice, there is great need for the message on the printed page. The dearth of religious literature in the Spanish language is most deplorable, and every Protestant church must do its share towards supplying the need. This year our Board is issuing the colored picture cards of the Sunday School system in Spanish. Over 516,000 cards were printed, at an expense of about $1,500, but it is an expenditure that will bring big returns. No better service could be rendered the whole Christian Church than the publication of some of our evangelical literature in the Spanish language.

WHERE THE MONEY COMES FROM

The Boards that were merged into the West Indies Mission Board had obligations requiring an income of $45,000 annually. The increased cost of traveling by steamship and railroad, the importance of adding to the very inadequate salaries of the missionaries now in service, as well as the expense involved in reinforcing our overburdened mission forces on the field, together with the cost of the work in Harlem, to say nothing of the expenses involved in the expansion of our operations, make necessary the annual income of $60,000 granted in the apportionment of the United Lutheran Church.

During the period elapsing between the merger and the Washington Convention, our Board received on apportionments the sum of $40,604; from the Augustana Synod, $4,677; from the Women's Missionary Societies and the direct contributions of churches and individuals, $4,234; from balances on hand and other sources, $3,185; from the grants from the Danish National Church, $13,081; from the value of Christmas boxes and supplies sent to the field for the charitable homes, amounting to $2,300, supplemented by personal gifts to the missionaries from relatives and friends of over $1,500. In addition the Board was compelled to make loans aggregating $31,600 in order to meet its expenditures of over $100,000.

We desire at this time to bear testimony to the generous support of the Women's Missionary Society, whose grants have enabled us to carry on work which neither the apportionment nor the additional gifts of friends would have permitted us to continue.

Record should also be made of the large contributions from the Swedish Augustana Synod, which has continued its liberal support since the merger. This Synod is in direct touch with the work through its representatives on our Board and those missionaries on the field who hold membership in that body.

CHRISTMAS BOXES AND SUPPLIES. Although not coming under the head of money, yet so much is saved by the contributions of Christmas boxes and supplies for the charitable institutions that these items should be mentioned in connection with our income. Christmas boxes have been sent for many years and have been a source of much anticipation, especially among the children, many of whom do not know what it is to possess a toy. These boxes are packed annually in New York City under the supervision of Miss Etta Fackiner. For the helpless infants and the old folks in our charitable institutions, hundreds of garments are required every year. During the last year the Young People's Societies, as well as the Women's Missionary Societies, have gladdened the hearts of the Deaconesses with bountiful supplies, saving hundreds of dollars to the Church. No shipments should be made, however, without first writing the Executive Secretary, inasmuch as conditions change so rapidly that instructions are necessary for every new consignment.

ORGANIZATION

The West Indies Mission Board is incorporated under the Membership Corporation Law of the State of New York, and by action of the United Lutheran Church, has its headquarters in New York City. Through the courtesy of the National Lutheran Commission, Room 904 of the Knabe Building was secured. This is in connection with the United Lutheran Church offices at 437 Fifth Avenue, New York City.

At the first meeting of the Board after the merger, an Executive Secretary was called in the person of the Rev. Z. M. Corbé, who accepted the call, subject to an agreement whereby he could continue as pastor of the Church of the Transfiguration, Philadelphia. In addition to the duties as Executive Secretary, he has also been given, temporarily, the duties of Superintendent, visiting the field each year. Since the establishment of the work in Harlem, New York City, he has, in addition to preaching in Philadelphia each Sunday morning, preached in New York City every Sunday evening.

THE BOARD. The membership is at present constituted as follows: Rev. E. Belfour, D.D., Zelienople, Pa.; M. S. Boyer, M.D., Philadelphia, Pa.; Rev. F. B. Clausen, Brooklyn, N. Y.; Mr. A. H. Durburrow, Narberth, Pa.; Rev. W. J. Finck, D.D., New Market, Va.; Rev. C. A. Freed, D.D., Columbia, S. C.; Mr. C. W. Fuhr, Pittsburgh, Pa.; Mr. R. E. Gaskell, New York City, N. Y.; Rev. B. F. Hankey, Pittsburgh, Pa.; Rev. H. W. A. Hanson, D.D., Harrisburg, Pa.; Mr. H. F. Heuer, Philadelphia, Pa.; Rev. A. J. Holl, Columbus, O.; Rev. W. M. Horn, Ithaca, N. Y.; Rev. J. H. Meyer, Jersey City, N. J.; E. J. Mosser, Esq., Chicago, Ill.; Mr. Clifford Rockwell, Utica, N. Y.; Rev. W. C. Schaeffer, Jr., Allentown, Pa.; Rev. J. J. Scherer, D.D., Richmond, Va.; Mr. H. M. Schmitt, Pittsburgh, Pa.; Mr. S. F. Telleen, New York City, N. Y. Representing Augustana Synod: Rev. P. J. O. Cornell, D.D., South Manchester, Conn.; Rev. J. Alfred Anderson, D.D., Brooklyn, N. Y. Representing Women's Missionary Society; Mrs. F. F. Fry, Rochester, N. Y.; Mrs. J. D. Jorgensen, New York City, N. Y. The Rev. F. H. Bosch, New York City, has been nominated to fill the present vacancy.

Officers: President, Rev. H. W. A. Hanson, D.D.; Vice-President, Rev. C. A. Freed, D.D.; Secretary, Mr. H. F. Heuer; Treasurer, Mr. S. F. Telleen; Executive Secretary, Rev. Zenan M. Corbé.

The Board of Directors (Executive Committee): Rev. H. W. A. Hanson, D.D., Rev. C. A. Freed, D.D., Mr. H. F. Heuer, Rev. F. B. Clausen, Mr. R. E. Gaskell, Rev. W. C. Schaeffer, Jr., Mr. S. F. Telleen.

It was with regret that the Board was compelled to accept the resignation of the Rev. Dr. W. D. C. Keiter, our first President, and the Rev. Dr. F. F. Fry, both of whom were elected to the Executive Board of the United Lutheran Church. By suitable resolution the Board gave testimony of its appreciation of the wise, earnest and faithful service of Dr. Keiter in the organization of the Board and during its first years of existence.

All inquiries concerning any matter connected with this report should be addressed to the Executive Secretary of the West Indies Mission Board, Room 904, 437 Fifth Avenue, New York City.

Turning on the Searchlight

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